“IN THE NAME OF GOD”

Misogyny hidden in the form of religion and traditions

Dear reader, I see religion as a hope that life matters. Just like animals’ humans take birth and attain death but what makes us different from animals is the way we conduct our life with certain things being wrong and right. Tell me dear reader would a dog be sent to jail for killing its babies? You might question my mental illness for even asking such a question but then why is a human considered murderer and receiver of punishment for the same act? A bird doesn’t lose its identity for leaving its weak children behind then why is a human considered inhumane if he does so? The Answer lies in one and one sentence only,

“THE HUMAN RACE FEELS ON A GREATER INTENSITY THAN ANY OTHER RACE IN THIS WORLD”

Our ability to understand pain and emotion and feelings makes us think we are far greater than any other species. Though I would like to think

of humans as a smarter species but not the greater one. What helps us distinguish right from wrong? What tells us if a person is worthy of any punishment? The answer for that I think would be morals. Morals make us different from animals, morals make us feel sad for a kitten who died on the road. The kitten’s mother might not feel sad for its death and even fill the babies' tummies with the kitten’s flesh, but a human would only see death in the eyes of that dead animal.

Humans fear what they don’t know, which is why they fear death. A person on the deathbed would feel content to know that there is a place where he could be even if death is upon him and that he wouldn’t just vanish, or his life would mean something. Often known as afterlife, which dear reader can also be considered as an origin of religion. A religion teaches one of right and wrongs, it acts as an invisible law that just exists in people’s minds. Some people fear this law and treat it as a far greater form of power when instead it mustn’t be feared. I don’t have strong reasons for why one should follow a religion, but I strongly believe that it should not be just followed for the fear of some hell which I don’t believe even exists. Dear reader let me recall what I stated at the starting of this book, I see religion as a hope that life matters but for most people no life matters as long as they are blindly

following a religion. They only count a few of their misdeeds as wrongful acts because a book considers them as sins. The religion solely doesn’t exist. It is the tradition that makes a religion last. There are many different religions and many different gods in the world. Most of these religions though have one thing in common which is the indifference towards women. It has been known that men have tormented women and considered them lowly beings. Women have always been tormented and assaulted by men and the society. Imagine being punished because you did not serve a man to his satisfaction. According to the Torah women are considered as a homemaker as in every other religion. The husband was considered as a ba’al upon marriage which portrays a husband’s role as that of an owner and lord in the marital relationship, but what wrong could a woman commit to be a property to one?

The society won’t let women learn anything except the knowledge of how to take care of a household because that is how worthy women are deemed in the eyes of men.

A man is not only considered the owner of his wife but also her pregnancy (Ex.21:22).

In the Torah, a woman is seen as a property of the man with no right of her own. Upon marriage a woman's ownership is transferred to

her husband, who then has the right to use (sexually) his property. (Ex 21:28). In Babylon, during the post-Talmudic period, Zeruah ben Paltoi, Gaon of Pumbedita (872-890), "*calls upon a man to flog his wife if she is guilty of assault.*"

Yehudai b. Nahman (Yehudai Gaon, 757-761) writes that: "*when her husband enters the house, she must rise and commit down until he sits, and she should never raise her voice against by husband. Even if he hits her she has to remain silent, because that how chaste women behave*" (Ozar Ha-Geonim, Ketubot 169-170).

The ninth-century Gaon of Sura, Sar Shalom b. Boaz (d. c. 859) distinguishes between an assault on a woman by her husband and an assault on her by a stranger. The Gaon of Surah's opinion was that the husband's assault on his wife was less severe, since the husband has authority over his wife (Ozar Ha-Geonim).The women were not allowed to learn and work and then would be divorced on grounds of baseless sins, ultimately making them helpless. The baseless sins that I mentioned here include not covering arms in a street, going out with uncovered hair, talking to other men or not following the husband's order.

Women are seen as a property which should not be damaged by another. They are brainwashed in the name of religion to serve as pet men like

and if they don't they are either forced or banished. Women according to Islamic Quran and Hadith are considered to have a testimony equal to that of a half man, in other words testimony of two women equals that of one man. Women in Islam are not allowed to pray during menstruation like in Hinduism but according to Islam it makes them deficient to their Deen (religious life).

Here's a narration by Prophet Muhammad in Hadith:

Hadhrat Abu Saeed Khudri (radhiyallahu anha) narrated that once Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) addressing a group of women said: *"O Women! Give Sadaqah (Charity) because I have seen you (females) more in Jahannam (islamic hell)."*

The women enquired: "*O Rasulallah! What is the reason for this?"*

Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said: "*You curse in abundance and you are ungrateful to your husbands. Furthermore, despite the deficiency in your Aql (intelligence) and your Deen, I have not seen anyone more capable of making a moron of an intelligent man."*

Why would Allah make the men more intelligent than women? All these books I read said to be moral and peaceful disgust me in the way they

talk about women. This is one of an illogical and dis gusting statement of men I came across: -

The Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam has stated,

"If a woman was to apply perfume to herself, then leave her home and wonder past people who were to catch her fragrance, she would be sinful of adultery and she would also be sinful of adultery for every glance she received." (Ahmad, Nasaai and At-Haakim; Abu Moosa Al-Ashari) Reported by Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi with the following wording:

"*Every eye is liable to commit adultery, and the woman who wears perfume and then passes by a gathering is such and such."* (i.e., she is an adulteress).

I would not wonder if someone told me that all these religious books containing rules and laws were made by a man, because only a man can think so lowly. Only a man could call a innocent woman sinful and adulteress for not being able to control his own sinful and disgusting eyes and actions. This is how the world sought to treat women and keep them in control but what happens if a woman turns out stronger and cannot be controlled? They worship them.

In Hinduism, only a certain class of women have rights but are still considered weak and are asked to always be under a man's responsibility and confined to a safe house, but if a woman emerges out Strong they call her a devi (goddess), because how could a nor mal woman be more powerful than a man, she has to be a goddess to do so, right? The "sati pratha" emerges from the region of India, this cultural tradition was considered a holy act of devotion of a woman towards her husband in Hinduism. A widow would sit on the burning pyre of her dead husband ultimately dying with him. Does a woman's life mean nothing without her husband?

In the ancient time, a woman would choose to be a sati proving her loyalty and devotion to her husband, which also cannot be justified because I believe if one loved one dies no matter how hard it could be, it does not mean the end of the world. Women would choose to die on their own, some to save their dignity from enemies in lost wars, some out of broken heart. Gradually, this tradition became cruel and evil, widows were seen as a burden on the society and were forcefully burned to death on the pyre of their husbands. Little girls, who were married at early age and widowed early too were also not forgotten, they were killed too. The last sati case recorded was in year 1987. This isn't the only

act of burning women. Witch hunting common during the time of 1450 to 1750 in Early modern Europe and colonial America. Witches from a long time have been feared and hated in Christianity. The creation of this concept of Satan-worshipping, followed by its tyranny, allowed the church to more easily oppress and torment women under authoritarian rule. Most of cases which were passed off as witchcraft were simply fictional creations of the church. Suspect women were tortured and tormented to confess, in these interrogations women were stripped naked and were sexually abused by applying hot burning tongs on their body. Researcher Nancy van Vuuren has written that "The women's sex organs provided special attractions for the male torment." It should not be surprising that just about every torture victim eventually confessed. A victim tortured with such cruel actions will confess whatever to the torture to eventually stop the pain. "*Malleus Maleficarum*," a 15th century manual on witch hunting, contained ways of interrogation and punishments for witches, i.e., burning and hanging them.

I think of it as a Deeply misogynistic and unscientific book that focused mostly on women and tormenting them sexually and strip ping them naked. No wonder the celibate men were fond of this. Women have always been regarded

more Spiritual than men and closer to God. The jealousy fuelled churchmen to say and do acts that have no justification. Men often regarded women as a lowly being. The philosopher Boethius, for example, wrote in The Consolation of Philosophy that "Woman is a temple built upon a sewer." Later, in the tenth century, Odo of Cluny stated: To embrace a woman is to embrace a sack of manure. Men create religions and textbooks with rules for women without having any understanding of women. How could a man know more about a woman than the woman herself? Building great things with no or half knowledge is dangerous and leads to harms and misunderstanding.

Men also create wars.

Wars create a winning side and unfortunately a losing side. The winner emerges with many rights to make the loser suffer, and they don’t let go of that right. The men die on the battleground leaving the women and children behind, who suffer the most/suffer. A very cruel death in the war zone would be great than what the people left behind suffer with. The sacrifices of Rajput women from the region of Rajasthan are mentioned in the history often called 'Jauhar', when women would swallow themselves by jumping in fire to save themselves from the consequences of a lost war. Jauhar is mentioned in the ways between Rajput and Muslims, reason

being rape and assault by the Muslims. It is mentioned that women to save themselves from a lifetime of Torment would rather die, imagine the torment.

The Mughals considered Rajput women as kaafirs, who were to be raped after they emerge victorious no matter maid or alive, which is why women would burn themselves to avoid necrophilia. There are many cases in the whole word as such, one of them being the horrible Yazidi genocide. The Yazidi genocide (2014-2017), carried out by the Islamic state of Iraq and Syria is accountable for the most outrageous and dis gusting torture towards women, children and elderly. Thousands of Yazidi women and girls were sold and trafficked. Sexual torture was the least of concern here. Children were killed and their flesh was fed to their mothers. Yazidis were massacred like pigs in a slaughterhouse, why? Just because they follow a different religion. Just because of their identity? How could a person's identity turn out to be so offending that they must be killed? Well history and religion have been really partial and inhumane towards women but we can expect our present to be different. If I keep writing about the horrible acts women have been a victim of this book might never end. I am not a hater of men or religion but rather Extremism. Every Religion you investigate asks to respect the women but it

is the traditions and the indifference towards women that now have given birth to horrible events happening all around the world. My thoughts I expressed here are not offenses but mere factual pieces of history that support the origin of feminism. Though it mustn't matter if anyone finds this Offending. Misogyny shouldn't be offending. Treating women inferior in the name of religion shouldn't be offending. It astonishes me how this society would call feminists selfish just because they fight for their rights. They never wonder why women must fight for the most basic human rights in the first place.

I see surprisingly, many women calling feminism an advantage. Which is no wonder because the society has kept women in dark of their rights and made them feel guilty for asking of a simple human right. People have typecasted feminists, it seems old and boring to them, and I might say that the concept of feminism is truly old, dating back to its origin which was more than a century ago. So, you see dear reader Feminism is old but it is still old enough? NO, a hundred year could not compensate for the thousands of years of misogyny, for the horrible acts that were carried out on women.

It could never.